

News Release

U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Northern District of Ohio*

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For Release: April 10, 2007

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Gregory A. White, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, announced today that a two-count information was filed against Vincent B. Weaver, charging him with aiding and assisting the preparation and presentation of false income tax returns for clients of his tax preparation business. According to court records, Weaver resides at 23100 Shelburne Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio.

According to the information, Weaver has operated a sole proprietorship tax preparation and real estate business under the name Carvin Properties and Tax Services, primarily from an office located in East Cleveland, Ohio. The information alleges that Weaver prepared at least 44 false and fraudulent income tax returns for at least 24 of his clients, which claimed income tax refunds that were greater than the actual refunds to which the clients were entitled. Weaver allegedly falsified such returns in various manners, including: (a) reporting false self-employment income from fictitious businesses or falsely-inflating amounts of self-employment in order to falsely inflate the amount of claimed earned income credit (EIC); (b) claiming false and fictitious dependents, and (c) claiming false educational credits.

The information further alleges that Weaver filed the returns electronically on behalf of the clients, and arranged for the Internal Revenue Service to direct-deposit the refunds into a bank account of his business. He then paid each client only a portion of the client's refund, either by business check or often in cash. In most instances, the client allegedly did not receive a copy of his or her return and did not know the amount of the refund claimed on the return.

Count 1 of the information charges Weaver with preparing the 44 false tax returns, claiming refunds totaling \$146,255, which was approximately \$94,707 greater than the total amount of refunds to which the 24 clients were entitled. Count 2 of the information charges Weaver

with preparing a false 2003 income tax return for an IRS undercover agent, on which he inflated her tax refund by approximately \$579, by reporting \$3,250 of income he fabricated from a purported Schedule C child care business in addition to the wage income disclosed to him by the undercover agent.

If convicted, the defendant's sentence will be determined by the Court after review of factors unique to this case, including the defendant's prior criminal record, if any, the defendant's role in the offense and the characteristics of the violation. In all cases the sentence will not exceed the statutory maximum and in most cases it will be less than the maximum.

The government's case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John M. Siegel, following an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, Cleveland, Ohio.

An information is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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